



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Instruction Memorandum No. **CA-2004-053**
Expires: 09/30/05

To: CDD District Manager, and all Field Office Managers
(*Attention – District/Regional and Field Office FMO's*)

From: DSD, Support Services

Subject: 2005 Rural Fire Assistance Program Guidance

DD: 09/24/04

Program Area: Fire Management

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum is being provided to announce the grant application period and guidance for California's 2005 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) Program. 2005 RFA grant applications will be accepted between August 30 and September 24, 2004. New BLM RFA direction includes the June 16, 2004, *Draft Departmental Manual- Rural Fire Assistance Program*, and the California Cooperative Fire Department Assistance (CCFDA) Committee, with emphasis on more field office involvement.

The primary objectives of the RFA program are to enhance firefighter safety and wildland fire protection capabilities of the rural fire departments that protect DOI administered lands. These objectives will be accomplished through BLM RFA grant funding, local field office initiatives, and CCFDA Committee alternatives. RFA grant funding may be applied to: wildland fire personal protective equipment; basic wildland fire training; basic safety and communications equipment, and; fire prevention activities within the local community.

We are expecting approximately \$345,000 for California's RFA program in 2005, which is half of what we had last year. Each BLM California Region should review closely their rural fire department needs and local assistance initiatives to best meet program goals and objectives for 2005. Grant selection priorities include rural departments, within BLM Direct Protection Areas, which have not previously been funded and those previously funded with continuing needs. A secondary priority is to assist rural departments adjacent to other DOI lands and protecting an "at-risk" community.

Fire Management Officers (FMO) and their designated RFA coordinators need to be familiar with the RFA grant requirements in order to work effectively with their local partners and are encouraged to review the following documents:

1. August 2004. BLM California- RFA Staff Responsibilities and Schedule (Attachment 1)
2. August 2004. BLM California- 2005 RFA Application Packet (Attachment 2)
3. June 2004. Draft Departmental Manual-RFA Program (Attachment 3)
4. July 2003. Draft Rural Fire Assistance Handbook

The aforementioned documents, applicable RFA memos, grant application packets, and all related information should be kept in detailed files at each field office. Regional FMOs are responsible for designating field office RFA leads to assist in the grant selection process occurring on September 29 and 30, 2004. The 2005 BLM California RFA application will be posted electronically on the California Fire Alliance website and available to field offices for posting or providing to partners.

Please send grant application packages to:

BLM-California State Office
Attn: Miriam Morrill, RFA Program Manager
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1834
Sacramento, CA 95825

The grant announcement can be found at the following websites: <http://www.cafirealliance.org/>, and <http://www.firesafecouncil.org/>. Please reference the National RFA website for steps in completing an application: <http://www.nifc.gov/rfa/steps.html>.

If you have questions, please contact Miriam Morrill, California State Office, Branch of Fire and Aviation at (916) 978-4436.

Signed
Karen Barnette
DSD, Support Services

Authenticated
Louise Tichy
Records Management

Attachments:

- 1 - BLM California- RFA Staff Responsibilities and Schedule (3 pp)
- 2 - BLM California- 2005 RFA Grant Application Packet (10 pp)
- 3 - Draft Departmental Manual-RFA Program (8 pp)